

Nutrition Coordinating Committee (NCC) Meeting Minutes May 4, 2000

WELCOME

Dr. Pam Starke-Reed welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order. By conference video, NIEHS was represented by Dr. Michael McClure. Dr. Van Hubbard participated via conference phone. The minutes of the March 2, 2000, NCC meeting were approved.

UPDATE OF DNRC ACTIVITIES

DIETARY GUIDANCE

Dr. Pennington reported that eleven nutrition education documents have been reviewed thus far in 2000. Five documents are currently in the review process, all of which are vitamin fact sheets prepared jointly by the NIH Clinical Center and the Office of Dietary Supplements. The fact sheets on vitamins A, D, and E have been reviewed by the Nutrition Education Subcommittee (NES) and forwarded for joint Departmental review. The Departmental review will be delayed until after the end of May, when the 2000 Dietary Guidelines for Americans will be available. The NES is currently reviewing the fact sheets for vitamins B6 and B12.

HUMAN NUTRITION RESEARCH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (HNRIM)

Mr. Jim Krebs-Smith reported that FY 1999 data for HNRIM had been received from all but four ICs. As expected, the process has taken longer this year because of testing of the redesigned system and the implementation of the new dietary supplement codes. He reminded members that the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) is reviewing submission for inclusion and coding of all dietary supplement related research (HNRIM codes 36 and 37), and the eventual inclusion of supplement-related projects in the ODS Computer Access to Research in Dietary Supplements (CARDS) database. ICs will be contacted if ODS recommends any changes in their HNRIM data. Finally, Mr. Krebs-Smith thanked field-test participants for their excellent feedback. He will undertake additional modifications as soon as this year's process is completed.

EIGHTEENTH REPORT ON NIH NUTRITION RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Dr. Cummings reported submissions from the ICs will be organized under sixteen major headings. The scientific information submitted is being rearranged under these headings. The resultant material will be edited and sent to NCC members for comment.

SUMMIT ON PROMOTING HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING (April 25-26, 2000)

Dr. Starke-Reed noted that this summit encouraged a public/private partnership, which the National Nutrition Summit also hopes to encourage. Discussions emphasized healthier eating and exercise, as well as concerns about obesity/overweight. Dr. Starke-Reed said that the meetings indicated a need for increased research and that DNRC plans to facilitate the announcement supporting Physical Activity and Obesity Research.

NATIONAL NUTRITION SUMMIT [NNS] (May 30-31, 2000)

Dr. Paul Coates distributed a detailed agenda for the ten breakout sessions. He noted that the first plenary session is likely to be opened by President Clinton. The Secretaries of both the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture will participate, as well as former Senators Dole and McGovern. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans will be released and it is anticipated that the BMI charts for children will also be released. Dr. Coates requested that NIH NCC representatives inform him of other significant activities and initiatives of which he could advise Secretary Shalala. The emphasis of the second morning's plenary session will be a call to action. Dr. Michael McGinnis, former Assistant Secretary for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, DHHS, will participate in the second plenary session. The overall goal of the NNS will be invigoration and support, especially of public-private partnerships. Questions were raised about possible attention to health disparities and needs of special populations and about invitations to attend the NNS. Two thousand invitations have been sent. A waiting list for attendees is being developed. The co-chairs of the NNS steering committee are Dr. Paul Coates, NIH, and Dr. Eileen Kennedy, USDA. The contractor is IQ Solutions and information about the Summit can be accessed through their website: <http://summit.iqsolutions.com>

OFFICE OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS (ODS) UPDATE

Dr. Coates explained that a database under development by ODS called CARDS is dependent partly on information about NIH-funded research projects available through HNRIM. He also provided a list of ODS-IC co-sponsored workshops during FY2000. Dr. Coates noted that fact sheets about vitamins and minerals, as well as supplements, are under development. ODS has assisted NIH in providing

website information about chromium and its relationship to type II diabetes mellitus. Chromium potentiates insulin action via a mechanism, which is not understood. Available literature about this subject is being reviewed. For additional information, see:

http://ods.od.nih.gov/news/conferences/chromium_diabetes.html

ODS has issued a second RFA for a Research Center focusing on dietary supplements, the applications for which should be reviewed by mid July. This second round of Center applications should be funded by the end of the fiscal year.

DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS

Dr. Pennington reported that the guidelines would be released by May 30, 2000 at the NNS. DHHS agency representatives from NIH, CDC, and FDA will participate in a briefing for the Deputy Secretary, DHHS, on Monday, May 8, 2000. ODPHP/OPHS/DHHS staff has been working closely with USDA staff to address the comments received from federal agencies, and also from the public.

NICHD OFFICE OF PREVENTION RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Dr. Dan Raiten reported that the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) Food and Nutrition Board has requested NIH support for the establishment of an International Food and Nutrition Forum. The Forum is intended as a vehicle to convene members of the Federal and non-governmental organization (NGO) scientific and programming communities to address issues ranging from food security, micronutrient nutrition ("hidden hunger"), the interaction between nutrition and infectious diseases, etc. The goals of the Forum include identification of issues, planning of focused workshops, commissioned papers and establishing research agendas. Because of the involvement of Federal agencies, the Forum will not serve as an official policy-making vehicle. IOM's request was passed from Dr. Kirschstein to NICHD's Office of Prevention Research and International Programs, which will serve as the lead office in coordinating the NIH response. The IOM's proposal is for nine meetings over three years, for which they have requested \$100,000 from NIH as part of total costs of \$200,000. A supporting consortium of ICs from the NIH community has been created. Current members of the consortium include the Fogarty Center, NEI, NIDCR, NIEHS, ODS, and NICHD. Decisions about additional support from other ICs are pending. The source of the additional non-NIH funding has not as yet been determined by the IOM program staff. A letter from NICHD Director, Dr. Duane Alexander indicating tentative support, pending results of a scientific review has been transmitted to the IOM. For additional information, see: [FNB Food Forum](#)

Dr. Raiten reported on the status of planning for a conference on dietary supplements use in children (prenatal, infant to preschool, prepubescent,

adolescent) tentatively scheduled for January, 2001. With NICHD as the lead agency, and additional support from ODS, this conference will cover issues related to the justification and safety of dietary supplement use in children and will establish a research agenda that will serve as the basis for programmatic activity. An internal NIH organizing committee has met and provided names for the establishment of a Scientific Steering Committee that will be responsible for generating an agenda and identifying speakers. Funding support from ICs, as well as agencies and organizations outside DHHS will be requested. Plans include publication of proceedings and development of program initiatives.

REPORTS FROM NCC MEMBERS AND LIAISONS

Dr. Barbara Schneeman, USDA, said that USDAs millennium series would present an economic program that will include changes in food, family, workforce, changes in eating behavior, and future changes. She also said that the Secretary, USDA, noted the great interest of the media and the high level of public interest in the "Great Nutrition Debate."

For additional information, see:

The Great Nutrition Debate <http://www.usda.gov/millennium/events.htm>

The American Consumer and the Changing Structure of the Food System
<http://www.ers.usda.gov>

Dr. Hubbard reported on the letter from Dr. George Blackburn and Dr. Michael Jacobsen, requesting a research initiative, including randomized clinical trials, addressing the diets of the authors presented at the "Great Nutrition Debate." A tentative response to the letter has been prepared and when the formal response is cleared, the approved version of the response will be circulated to the NCC.

The NCCAM representative, Ms. Marguerite Evans was introduced, as was Dr. Barry Davis, the alternate representative from NIDCD.

Dr. Shirley Blakely, FDA, mentioned the press release about bioengineered foods.

The agenda, list of attendees, and handouts of the May 4, 2000 NIH NCC meeting immediately follow these minutes.